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was their first opportunity to see pictures done by really good artists.

Toward the end of the exhibition the schools from the country and the mountain settlements began to come in to see the pictures, some by train, some by hay-rack, and others walked many miles, teachers and children together.

I have already written at too great length, and of details that mean more to me, perhaps, than to you, but the great point that I wish I could make very clear to you is that the American Federation of Arts is carrying advantages and inspiration to thousands of people in the far west from whom you will never hear.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ALLEN EATON.

### THE COMING CONVENTION

IN these days of action covering vast territories, great results must remain beyond reach until the magic wand of co-operation has been applied—sometimes forcefully—to many varied elements, all having uniform general interests but each dominated by definite local interests which loom larger because they are closer to the eye. An outstanding example of this country-wide coöperation is seen in the American Federation of Arts, an organization of national scope and effectiveness which will hold its tenth annual convention in New York on May 15, 16, and 17 at the invitation of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The American Federation of Arts was founded in 1909 at Washington. Its objects, then ably stated by Senator Root, are covered by the words, to "increase the happiness that is to be found in the cultivation of taste and the opportunity for its enjoyment." The chief object of the Federation is to unite in closer fellowship all working or interested in the field of art and especially those committed to the opinion that art should be brought within reach of all and the appreciation of art made a common virtue. Toward that end it maintains in its system of organization and in its various types of propaganda and publications a channel for the expression

of opinion in matters pertaining to art in order that better legislation may be secured and a better standard upheld, while providing various direct agencies of helpfulness in the form of circulating lectures and traveling exhibitions. In 1918, thirty-one exhibitions of many kinds were shown in one hundred and six places. Illustrated lectures to the number of twenty-five were circulated, the subjects covering a wide variety of subjects.

In various public questions affecting the arts, the Federation has taken an active interest, and has wielded a strong influence for their adequate and satisfactory solution, notably such matters as the successful campaign to put art on the free list in the tariff, the placing of control over the designs for military medals and others of like character in the hands of the Federal Commission of Fine Arts, the furtherance of legislation to prevent the making of public gifts to foreign countries without approval of the proper authorities of the United States Government. The Federation has urged that industrial art be included in all schemes of vocational education and that the Design Registration Bill be passed by Congress. In recent months the Federation has been actively engaged in an intensive campaign for good design in war memorials; its publications on the subject having reached the attention of many thousands of persons, institutions, organizations, periodicals, and others interested in the subject. A General Committee on War Memorials of which Ex-President Taft is Honorary Chairman and Charles Moore, of the National Commission of Fine Arts, is chairman, has been appointed; the membership of this committee includes such names as the following: Herbert Adams, Henry Bacon, Robert W. de Forest, Charles W. Eliot, John H. Finley, Daniel C. French, Cass Gilbert, Myron T. Herrick, Otto H. Kahn, James D. Phelan, Elihu Root, James L. Slayden, Lorado Taft, Joseph E. Widener. In addition, regional sub-committees and many professional advisers have been appointed for the aid and convenience of those in differ-

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ent parts of the country who wish specific and professional advice.

On the first day of the tenth annual convention, May 15, both morning and afternoon sessions will be devoted to the subject of War Memorials. Among the speakers will be Hon. Elihu Root; Charles Moore, Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts; Morris Gray, President of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Edwin H. Blashfield, the distinguished mural painter; Cass Gilbert, the architect of the New Treasury Annex, the Woolworth Building, New York, and the Minnesota State Capitol; Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect, who during the war served on the Housing Commission; and Harold S. Bittenheim, Secretary of the National Committee on Memorial Buildings.

The session on Friday morning will be devoted to the work of the American Federation of Arts, which because of after-war needs will be considerably broadened in scope. Among the speakers at this session will be Robert W. de Forest, President of the Federation; Miss Leila Mechlin, Secretary of the Federation; Oscar B. Jacobson of the University of Oklahoma; Rossiter Howard, of the Minneapolis Art Institute; and John Cotton Dana of the Newark Public Library, all of whom are taking an active part in advancing the knowledge and appreciation of art in this country.

The afternoon session on Friday will be devoted to the subject of Art and Labor with the purpose of showing how art can be made an instrument both of Americanization and of reconciliation. Joseph Pennell will speak on Pictorial Publicity, treating of the poster as a medium of com-

munication; Gerrit A. Beneker will present a paper on Art as a Constructive Force, the result of his own experiment as an artist employed on large construction works both in this city and in Cleveland. Henry W. Kent will tell what the Metropolitan Museum is doing to assist the development of industrial art not only through the use of its collections but through its Associate in Industrial Arts by direct contact with the manufacturers and artists.

On Saturday there will be but one session, that to be held in the morning. The general topic will then be Art and the Nation. Charles D. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, will speak on A National Gallery of Art. Thomas Whitney Surette will speak on Music in Relation to the Other Arts in Art Museums.

On the evening of the fourteenth, preceding the opening of the Convention, a reception will be given by the Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum to the delegates and members in attendance, in the Pierpont Morgan Wing of the Museum. There will be music.

In addition to this reception, delegates to the Convention will be given the privilege of viewing some of the private art collections in New York which are rarely open to visitors, such for example as those of Henry C. Frick, Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, George Blumenthal, Senator Clark; also the library of J. Pierpont Morgan.

On Saturday afternoon after the final session, a reception with music will be given in honor of the delegates in the Fine Arts Building by the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

R. F. B.